



“Sidewalks improve public safety and quality of life in Seattle’s neighborhoods”
—Mayor Greg Nickels

Priority: Transportation

Taking care of the basics: Pedestrian Safety

Mayor Nickels’ “back to basics” proposed budget makes the right choices, brings stability to city finances, and puts us on a course to make our city stronger. As part of the mayor’s emphasis on transportation, his budget strengthens programs for roads and street repairs, transit – and sidewalks. Residents know sidewalks can improve pedestrian safety, assist the elderly and the handicapped, reduce traffic congestion, promote natural drainage, and increase property values. Sidewalks also promote a sense of community and inclusion: people get out of their cars and meet one another.



Problem: One-third of Seattle’s 1500 miles of streets have no sidewalks

Action: The Mayor’s proposed budget will

- Build more sidewalks, faster and at lower cost per block
- Reduce by half the amount of General Fund dollars used for sidewalks in 2003 and eliminate General Fund dollars in 2004
- Make use of capital dollars that cannot be used for human services
- Increase sidewalk production nine-fold (900%)
- Build 35 blocks of sidewalks in 2003
- Build 50 blocks in 2004
- Build even more sidewalks through neighborhood participation (Local Improvement Districts)